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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Nasser-Ghodsi et al.

Attorney Docket No.: KLA1P041/P773

Application No.: 09/990,171

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: November 21, 2001

Group: Not Assigned

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
VOID CHARACTERIZATION

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2882
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on December 11, 2002.

Signed: Joyce L. Ferreira

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56 AND 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449 copies of which are enclosed, may be material to the examination of the above-identified patent application. These references were cited in a corresponding EPC application. A copy of the European Search Report which was dated November 8, 2002, is enclosed herewith as well. These references are submitted in compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to make these citations official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that additional information (material to the examination of this application) does not exist or that the enclosed reference(s) constitute prior art.

Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that the references enclosed herewith were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. (37 CFR 1.97(e)(1))

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this IDS. However, should the Commissioner determine that additional fees are required for filing the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to our deposit account number 500388 (Order No. KLA1P041).

Respectfully submitted,
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